Impact of Exim Policy on oil sector

4129. DR. A. R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Exim Policy, 2003-04 promoting oil marketing companies to go in for direct imports of petrol and diesel have been welcomed by all the oil companies;

(b) if so, the details of the companies which will be involved in importing petrol and diesel directly for their retail outlets;

(c) to what extent it has helped in fulfilling the demands of oil and petroleum products to the consumers;

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to deregularise the oil industry further; and

(e) whether this decision of Government will check the prices of these products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per Exim Policy 2003-04, the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-MKT. dated 8.3.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would be able to import the transportation fuels without going through IOC. So far, marketing rights for transportation fuels have been granted to M/s RIL, ONGC, ESSAR Oil and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.

(c) to (e) The Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector has been dismantled effective 1st April, 2002. The aforesaid provision in the Exim Policy 2003-04, as stated under para (a) and (b) above, is likely to increase competition in the marketing of transportation fuels thereby benefiting the consumers.

Companies involved in exploratory drillings

4130. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exploratory drilling which are being conducted for petroleum and natural gas, both on-shore and off-shore, State-wise and the results thereof;